

April 1, 1980

LB 637

the lack of time. We should be moving along. A while back a Nobel Prize winner spoke to the Agriculture and Environment Committee about concerns that he has with our environment by using fossil fuels. He was very much opposed to fossil fuels in his support of renewable energy because of our atmospheric conditions changing due to the amount of CO2 and other gases that are going into our atmosphere and the climate on this planet will change if we continue, and gasohol is one solution. By burning alcohol that is produced with plants taking up the carbon dioxide and giving out oxygen, we are keeping a balance. Presently we are importing crude from foreign nations at the tune of 9.7 million dollars per hour, twenty-four hours a day. So I think this is something we should be concerned... rather than to export our money to overseas countries we should be keeping that capital here, generating our economy, giving the farmers a better price for their grain, easing the boxcar shortage and a number of other problems that we have presently. I can't see shipping grain to Decatur, Illinois and then bringing alcohol back to Nebraska. So I support the DeCamp motion to reconsider our action last week. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Murphy.

SENATOR MURPHY: Ladies and gentlemen, may I say no... flatly no. We are going to tamper with the Constitution of this state to create an alcohol production plant. Now I mentioned before that a couple of years ago when the co-ops came in and asked to be totally tax exempted, they boasted that they had 350,000 members which was a way of intimidating you in the manner in which you voted. I believed them. I believed them, and all I am saying is, if those people who are intimately involved with grain will contribute \$10 per member they can build a three and a half million dollar alcohol plant and our Constitution will be untouched. They can contribute \$20 and we will build a seven million dollar one, and I don't think you will find a farmer in this state that wouldn't contribute a \$100 if properly approached, and we will build a thirty-five million dollar plant. But to say that the only way this can be done is to alter the Constitution of this state is unfortunate and is dangerous. I am opposed to the return motion.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Keyes.

SENATOR KEYES: Senator Murphy, I very much hate to disagree with you, but, Senator Murphy, if three-fifths of the members of this Legislature wish to do something with the